

# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF RHODE ISLAND

This chapter has been prepared under a Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior, and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management for collecting information on all nonfuel minerals.

In 1994, Rhode Island climbed to 48th among the 50 States in total nonfuel mineral value,<sup>1</sup> following more than 2 decades of ranking in the 49th place, according to the U.S. Bureau of Mines. The estimated value for 1994 was \$27 million, a substantial 18% increase compared with that of 1993. This followed a nearly 8% increase from 1992 to 1993. The State accounted for about one-tenth of 1% of the U.S. total value. Increases in value of construction sand and gravel, the State's leading mineral commodity, and crushed stone accounted for most of Rhode Island's notably increasing mineral value in 1994. Construction sand and gravel alone was responsible for most of the increase in 1993. In 1994, production of industrial sand and gravel was reported, but has been withheld

from table 1 below to protect company proprietary data; no gemstone data production was reported for the year.

According to the Office of the Rhode Island State geologist, information concerning the State's bedrock geology was gathered and a map (scale=1:100,000) was subsequently published in 1994 under the title *Bedrock Geologic Map of Rhode Island* as part of Rhode Island Map Series No. 1. All map data were compiled in digital form and may be purchased from the State geologist.

<sup>1</sup>The term value in this document refers to the monetary value of nonfuel minerals as represented by either mine shipments, mineral commodity sales, or marketable production as is applicable to the individual mineral commodities.

TABLE 1  
NONFUEL RAW MINERAL PRODUCTION IN RHODE ISLAND<sup>1</sup>

Mineral	1992		1993		1994 <sup>p</sup>	
	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)
Gemstones	NA	\$1	NA	\$1	—	—
Sand and gravel (construction) thousand metric tons	2,227	11,964	<sup>e</sup> 2,500	<sup>e</sup> 13,900	2,800	\$15,800
Stone (crushed) do.	<sup>e</sup> 1,361	<sup>e</sup> 9,500	<u>1,291</u>	<u>9,251</u>	<u><sup>e</sup>1,600</u>	<u><sup>e</sup>11,600</u>
Total <sup>2</sup>	XX	21,465	XX	<sup>3</sup> 23,152	XX	27,400

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>p</sup>Preliminary. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Production as measured by mine shipments, sales, or marketable production (including consumption by producers).

<sup>2</sup>Partial total, excludes values which must be concealed to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

<sup>3</sup>Data do not add to total shown because of independent rounding.

TABLE 2  
RHODE ISLAND: CRUSHED STONE<sup>1</sup> SOLD OR USED BY PRODUCERS IN 1993, BY USE

Use	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value
Coarse aggregate (+1 1/2 inch):			
Macadam	1	\$20	\$20.00
Riprap and jetty stone	8	85	10.63
Filter stone	W	W	8.00
Coarse aggregate, graded:			
Bituminous aggregate, coarse	15	91	6.07
Railroad ballast	(²)	4	11.03
Fine aggregate (-3/8 inch):			
Stone sand, bituminous mix or seal	13	87	6.69
Screening, undesignated	1	8	8.00
Coarse and fine aggregates:			
Graded road base or subbase	18	70	3.89
Unpaved road surfacing	4	14	3.50
Terrazzo and exposed aggregate	1	14	14.00
Crusher run or fill or waste	W	W	10.82
Other construction materials	6	50	8.33
Agricultural:			
Agricultural limestone	9	(³)	(³)
Unspecified: <sup>4</sup>			
Actual	549	(³)	(³)
Estimated	666	4,311	6.47
Total <sup>5</sup>	1,291	9,251	7.17
Total <sup>6 7</sup>	1,423	9,251	6.50

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other construction materials."

<sup>1</sup>Includes granite, limestone, and traprock.

<sup>2</sup>Less than 1/2 unit.

<sup>3</sup>Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Total."

<sup>4</sup>Includes production reported without a breakdown by use and estimates for nonrespondents.

<sup>5</sup>Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

<sup>6</sup>One short ton is equal to 907 kilograms or 2,000 pounds. To convert metric tons to short tons, divide metric tons by 0.907185.

<sup>7</sup>Total shown in thousand short tons and thousand dollars.

TABLE 3  
RHODE ISLAND: CRUSHED STONE SOLD OR USED, BY KIND

Kind	1991 <sup>1</sup>				1993			
	Number of quarries	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value	Number of quarries	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value
Limestone	2	W	W	\$6.10	3	572	\$3,459	\$6.05
Granite	2	W	W	7.40	2	W	W	8.06
Traprock	2	W	W	7.25	2	W	W	8.04
Total <sup>1</sup>	XX	1,077	\$7,262	6.74	XX	1,291	9,251	7.17
Total <sup>2 3</sup>	XX	1,187	7,262	6.12	XX	1,423	9,251	6.50

<sup>1</sup>Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Total." XX Not applicable.

<sup>2</sup>Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

<sup>3</sup>One short ton is equal to 907 kilograms or 2,000 pounds. To convert metric tons to short tons, divide metric tons by 0.907185.

<sup>4</sup>Total shown in thousand short tons and thousand dollars.